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AGRICULTURAL BUFFER ZONE SUBCOMMITTEE - MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: July 9, 1998
Meeting Time: 10:30 a.m.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 156-A
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Randy Edgemon.

Members Absent: Rep. Mark Kruzan, Chair; Sen. Vi Simpson; Rep. Richard Mangus; Mike Carnahan; Kerry Michael Manders; Gary Reding; John Walker.

Randy Edgemon, filling in as Chair of the Agricultural Buffer Zone Subcommittee for Rep. Kruzan, called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Cress Hizer, representing the Indiana Plantfood and Ag Chemical Association (IPACA), made the following remarks. The IPACA received a grant from the American Crop Protection Association to research buffer zones across the country. Twenty-eight states have been studied to date. Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina, and Virginia all have laws that provide incentives to create buffer zones. Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, and Oklahoma are considering similar legislation. Some examples of the incentives include property tax abatement (Indiana and Illinois), property tax exemptions (Michigan and Virginia), cost-sharing (Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and North Carolina), and participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (Indiana). Mr. Hizer noted that getting land classified as a buffer zone in Indiana is a complicated process. He added that land in Indiana that is used as a buffer zone is assessed at \$1 per acre.

Mr. Edgemon questioned whether any federal funds are available to help with buffer zones. Glenn Pratt responded that federal cost-sharing is available, but it needs to be supplemented on the state level.

Mr. Edgemon distributed two articles regarding national conservation buffers and non-point source pollution in Wisconsin.¹

Jill Reinhart, with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, provided a handout on buffer strips from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.²

The next meeting was scheduled for August 4, 1998 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 233. Mr. Edgemon adjourned the meeting.

¹These articles are on file in the Legislative Information Center (LIC), Room 230, Statehouse, Indianapolis, Indiana. The telephone number of LIC is (317) 232-9856, and the mailing address is 200 W. Washington St., Suite 301, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789.

²This document is on file in the Legislative Information Center (see footnote 1).